

Meeting Report

Date of Meeting October 25, 2005 1:00–3:00 PM
Gila Bend Community Center

Subject Study Team Meeting
SR 85 Gila Bend, TRACS No. 85 MA 123 H6407 01L
Phase 2- Design Concept Report / Environmental Assessment
Meeting #3

Participants See Attached Sign-In Sheets

Date of Issue November 15, 2005 **Author** Tricia Brown

Introductions

Tricia Brown welcomed everyone to the Study Team Meeting and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. A list of participants is attached.

Minutes of this meeting will be sent out via e-mail and they will be posted to the ADOT SR 85 Website (<http://www.azdot.gov/Highways/Projects/SR85/Index.asp>). One addendum to the September 27, 2005, Meeting Report was issued October 18, 2005.

Previous Action Items

HES Study and Intersection Improvements: Paul Patane, ADOT Yuma District, reported that the Hazard Elimination Study (HES) is a potential funding source for improvements at the intersection of SR 85 and Maricopa Road. ADOT's HES group has evaluated the accident data from the previous five years, and determined that this intersection does not qualify for HES funding. The conclusion was that the roadway geometry was not the cause of majority of accidents, but rather vehicle behavior.

ADOT will continue to explore alternate funding for interim improvements at this intersection. Yuma District will initiate collection of traffic counts.

Speed Limit Reduction Request: Lynn Farmer indicated that this is not actually a 'resolution from the town', but rather a discussion that took place during a City Council meeting. Yuma District is continuing to evaluate the Town's request to reduce the speed limit near the SR 85 / Maricopa Road intersection.

ADOT Website: has been updated and current project information can be found at <http://www.azdot.gov/Highways/Projects/SR85/Index.asp>.

Corridor Study Newsletter: Tricia Brown reported that the newsletter has been completed, printed, and will be distributed to all Post Office Boxes in Gila Bend on October 26, 2005. Contact Tricia if you do not receive a copy.

New Action Items

Gila Bend Airport Master Plan: Tricia Brown requested a copy of the master plan to identify glide slope requirements, etc. from Lynn Farmer. He will mail a copy.

Environmental Update

Trisha McCabe indicated that the Cultural Resources Survey has been submitted to SHPO, and the Hazardous Materials Report is complete. Field work is being done the week of October 25, 2005. She explained that the Cultural Resources Survey provides an inventory of the land that is being studied as part of this project and this report will be used to evaluate impacts to the alternative footprints during the Environmental Assessment.

Project Status

Tricia Brown gave an overview of the project process, describing that an Evaluation Matrix will be developed and each of the Alternatives will be evaluated against specific criteria.

Three alternatives, AA-1, AA-2, and the No Build Alternative, will be evaluated for the mainline SR 85 connection to Interstate 8. Alternatives AA-1 and AA-2 are attached to these meeting minutes, and can also be found on the website.

Five alternatives, Town TI 1-4, and the No Build Alternative, will be evaluated for the SR 85 / Business 8 TI. Alternatives Town TI 1- 4 are attached to these meeting minutes, and can also be found on the website.

The evaluation process will take place during the next couple of months, and the findings will be presented to the Project Stakeholders in early 2006. A Public Information Meeting will be held in the spring of 2006, to present the findings to the public. The public will be given the opportunity to comment on the evaluation and the alternatives as part of this process. Tricia explained that there will be no further monthly Study Team Meetings, that the next time the public gets together will be in spring 2006.

Following the Public Information Meeting, the team will compile comments from the Stakeholders and the public and select a 'Preferred Alternative'. At that point, the Environmental Assessment will begin to evaluate the Preferred Alternative. A Design Concept Report will be prepared to document the development and evaluation of the alternatives.

Exhibits were presented to the group showing the Town TI 1-4 alternatives and the AA-1 and AA-2 alternatives. Minor modifications to the mainline alternatives include a 75 mph design speed throughout the corridor and refinement to the ramp designs.

Questions Asked Regarding Project Status:

What is a No-Build Alternative? Tricia Brown indicated that it is the evaluation of the existing condition against the criteria that the build options are compared.

Has the team already developed an opinion regarding the alternatives? Tricia Brown answered that no opinions have been made and the process will be followed by the Design Team to evaluate the alternatives against a set of criteria and we will present our findings to the Stakeholders, then the public. Written comments will be welcome at this time.

Is there a published list of stakeholders? Tricia Brown and Tim Wilson indicated that any public entity is included as part of the Project Stakeholders. The list includes the Town of Gila Bend, ADOT Predesign, ADOT Yuma District, Federal Highway Administration, Maricopa County, and the State Land Department. [Other stakeholder not mentioned is Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG).]

Closing

The next Public Information Meeting will be announced in early 2006. Tricia Brown explained that the alternatives presented will be evaluated per criteria developed by the team. The evaluation will be presented to the Stakeholders in January/February 2006, followed by a Public Information Meeting sometime in the spring of 2006.

ACTION ITEMS

	Item	Responsible	Status
1	Coordinate the collection of accident data for the SR 85/Maricopa Road intersection	Wilson	Completed
2	Check status of speed limit reduction request from Town of Gila Bend	Patane	Underway
3	Update SR 85 website to provide current information; provide link to website to project team	Brown/Jerez	Completed
4	Provide update on public notification newsletter for Corridor Study completion	Simpson-Colebank	Completed
5	HES evaluation of accident data to determine if this location qualifies for HES Safety Funding for interim improvements to the SR 85/Maricopa Road Intersection.	HES Section – Wilson to monitor progress	Completed
6	Initiate collection of traffic counts at Maricopa Road / SR 85 intersection and explore alternate funding sources for interim improvements.	Omer/Patane	Underway
7	Obtain Airport Master Plan from Town of Gila Bend	Brown/Farmer	Underway